

LUKAS, NACE GUTIERREZ & SACHS

CHARTERED

1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD, SUITE 1500

MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102

703 584 8678 • 703 584 8696 FAX

WWW.FCCLAW.COM

David A. LaFuria
(703) 584-8666
dlafuria@fcclaw.com

May 8, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Wednesday, April 26, 2006, undersigned counsel, along with James Jenkins, on behalf of U.S. Cellular Corporation ("USCC"), met with Scott Bergmann, and Barry Ohlson to discuss universal service issues.

We discussed USCC's pending ETC petitions in New Hampshire, Virginia and North Carolina and urged prompt action on them.

We also expressed support for a hybrid approach to the contribution methodology, along the lines proposed by Chairman Martin.

On the distribution side, we noted that wireless consumers have contributed over \$14 billion since the 1996 Act but that wireless consumers have seen very little benefit from their contributions, as wireless carriers have, in the aggregate, drawn just over \$1 billion during the same time period. Meanwhile rural ILECs draw roughly \$3 billion per year, and roughly \$19 billion in the aggregate, for networks that are not growing, and in many places are declining. We urged the Commission

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to ensure that all rules developed in upcoming proceedings ensure that distributions are made on a competitively neutral basis.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. LaFuria", written in a cursive style.

David A. LaFuria

cc: Scott Bergmann, Esq.
Barry Ohlson, Esq.